(b) whether it is a fact that Gasohol is considered less polluting; and

(c) if so, the details of studies conducted on its eco-friendly nature?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) The Oil Marketing Companies fix the price of blended petrol as per the laid down procedure. Present estimated annual requirement of anhydrous ethanol is 3,48,000 KL in the first phase of the programme, but production capacity is only 1,94,220 KL. Additional units are being set up to increase the ethanol production capacity. 9 major sugar producing States and 4 contiguous Union Territories are to be covered by 30th June, 2003, in the first phase of implementation of this programme.

(b) and (c) Emission studies indicate that there was reduction in carbon monoxide (CO) emissions from two wheelers with the use of 5% and 10% ethanol petrol blends with marginal increase in hydrocarbon (HC) emissions.

Two wheelers fitted with catalytic converters show substantial reduction in both carbon monoxide and hydrocarbon emission.

In the case of passenger cars, marginal increase in nitrogen oxide (NO) emissions was observed. However, there is substantial reduction in CO and HC emissions.

Import of crude oil

† 63. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the import of crude oil during the first nine months of the year 2002-03 has increased in comparison to that of the same period during the last year;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the additional quantum of crude oil imported during April to December in current year in comparison to that of the import made during the said period of the last year; and

(c) the additional amount paid by the country due to the said additional import?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (c) The quantum of crude oil imported during April to December 2002 as compared to that of the corresponding period of 2000-01 is higher by 3.202 million metric tonnes (MMT) involving payment of about Rs. 9,125 crore.

Potential of oil and gas reserves

64. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is projected to have a capability of producing up to 3 per cent of world's oil and gas output in the coming few years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any survey/plan has been drawn up for identifying the possible areas of oil and gas reserves; and

(d) if so, by when the final results of the survey are likely to be available?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (d) India, including its Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) has more than 4% of the world's total sedimentary basins. Worldwide, sedimentary areas are recognized to be the possible habitats of hydrocarbon reserves. The "India Hydrocarbon Vision-2025" envisages a time-bound plan for the appraisal of Indian sedimentary basins to the extent of 25% by 2005, 50% by 2010, 75% by 2015 and 100% by 2025. In line with the "India Hydrocarbon Visioh-2025" Report, to accelerate exploration efforts in the country, the Government has already signed 70 Production Sharing Contracts under three rounds of the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP).